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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/585,323

07/06/2006

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EXAMINER

CHAWAN, SHEELA C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/14/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/585,323	Applicant(s) TAKAHASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner SHEELA C. CHAWAN	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 4-17 and 20-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/6/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

1. Preliminary amendment filed on 7/6/06 has been entered.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/6/06, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

4. The Examiner has approved drawings filed on 7/6/06.

Election/Restriction

5. Claims 4-17 and 20-28 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse filed on 9/4/09.

Applicant's election without traverse of group I claims 1-3 and 18-19 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

Art Unit: 2624

applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 - 3, 18 -19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirano et al., (US. 20050221856 A1).

The applied reference has a common assignee, with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

As to claim 1, Hirano discloses a character recognition device, comprising:

imaging means for shooting an image; position measuring means for measuring a shooting position of the image to obtain shooting position information indicating the shooting position (fig 1, element 105, see paragraph 0069, also see fig 2, element 105);

direction detecting means for detecting a shooting direction of the image to obtain shooting direction information indicating the shooting direction (fig 20, element 2001, see paragraph (0125) position measuring information is provided by the GPS unit);

position corresponding information storage means for storing position corresponding information that is words associated with respective positional information indicating positions of respective places (note, the moving trajectory data provides the direction information);

position corresponding information extracting means for determining, based on the shooting position information and the shooting direction information, a range of a shooting object by the imaging means, and extracting from the position corresponding information storage means position corresponding information associated with positions included in the range (see paragraph 0127) positional information (position corresponding information) is stored in element 2007(map data) fig 20, element 2007, see paragraph 0130, this explains the process of extraction of information related to position , direction and map data from specific memory units(element 2001, 2007, fig 20); and

character recognizing means for recognizing, using the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means, a

Art Unit: 2624

character or a character string included in the image shot by the imaging means (see paragraph 0126 and fig 20, element 2002, 2003(for character and language) and element 2001 for position)

As to claim 2, Hirano discloses the character recognition device in accordance with claim 1, comprising:

non-corresponding-to-position information storage means for storing therein non-corresponding-to-position information that is words not associated with positional information (see paragraph 0078 fig 1, element 113 is the character recognizing unit); and

non-corresponding-to-position information extracting means for extracting non-corresponding-to-position information from the non-corresponding-to-position information storage means according to the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means(see paragraph 0084) explains the extraction of character recognition), wherein

the character recognizing means recognizes a character or a character string included in the image using the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means and the non-corresponding-to-position information extracted by the non-corresponding-to-position information extracting means (see paragraph 0127) explained the character recognition process using corresponding positional information).

As to claim 3, Hirano discloses the character recognition device in accordance with claim 2, wherein: the non-corresponding-to-position information storage means

Art Unit: 2624

stores therein, as non-corresponding-to-position information, a set of words that are not associated with the positional information and which includes at least one word equal to position corresponding information (see paragraph 0075), the non – positional information is stored in a buffer (105), fig 1); and

the non-corresponding-to-position information extracting means extracts non-corresponding-to-position information from the non-corresponding-to-position information storage means using as a key the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means (note, the non-positional information is extracted (see paragraph 0086) using positional coordinates) .

As to claim 18, Hirano discloses a character recognition method, comprising:

imaging means shooting an image; position measuring means measuring a shooting position of an image to obtain shooting position information indicating the shooting position (an imaging means fig 2, element 105);

direction detecting means detecting a shooting direction of an image to obtain shooting direction information indicating the shooting direction (fig 20, show the position measuring means (elements 2001) (GPS) see paragraph 0125);

position corresponding information extracting means determining, based on the shooting position information and the shooting direction information, a range of a shooting object of the imaging means, the position corresponding information extracting means extracting, from the position corresponding information storage means storing position corresponding information that is words associated with respective positional information indicating positions of respective places, position corresponding information

Art Unit: 2624

associated with positions included in the range (note, element 2001 in fig 20 also provides the directional information through map data, (2007), (0126)); and

character recognizing means recognizing, using the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means, a character or a character string included in the image imaged by the imaging means (see paragraph 0127 the map data 2007 is used for selecting extracting means), character recognizing means uses positional information see paragraph 0130) .

As to claim 19, Hirano discloses the character recognition method in accordance with claim 18, further comprising:

non-corresponding-to-position information extracting means extracting, from non-corresponding-to-position information storage means storing therein non-corresponding-to-position information that is words not associated with positional information, non-corresponding-to-position information according to the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means(see paragraph 0076 and 0078, explains the process of non- positional information extraction, see paragraph (0086) explains when the information is based on positional details); and

the character recognizing means recognizing a character or a character string included in the image using the position corresponding information extracted by the position corresponding information extracting means and the non-corresponding-to-position information extracted by the non-corresponding-to-position information

Art Unit: 2624

extracting means (see paragraph 0088, explains the character recognition information obtained by non-positional and positional information input)(also see paragraph 0086).

Other prior art cited

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Naol et al., (US.6,687,401B2) discloses pattern recognizing apparatus and method .

Naol et al., (US.6,335,986B1) discloses pattern recognizing apparatus and method .

Maruyama et al., (US. 5,978,520) discloses method of recognizing image data and apparatus therefor .

Nishiwaki (US. 6,198,846 B1) discloses character recognition system.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEELA C. CHAWAN whose telephone number is (571)272-7446. The examiner can normally be reached on 7.30- 5.00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)? If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sheela C Chawan/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

Application/Control Number: 10/585,323
Art Unit: 2624

Page 10